



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

JAN 10 2013

Mr. Abraham Franklin
Watershed Protection Section
Surface Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environmental Department
1190 St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Dear Mr. Franklin:

We have completed our review of the second draft of the Cimarron Watershed-Based Plan (WBP). This WBP addresses the Environmental Protection Agency's nine key elements for Section 319 funding. This version of the plan, dated December 6, 2012, addresses EPA's comments on the initial WBP received on August 30, 2012. This WBP is designed to address water quality impairments for temperature, sedimentation, dissolved arsenic, bacteria, nutrients, and turbidity in the Cimarron River Watershed.

EPA greatly appreciates the work of the Cimarron Watershed Alliance, the Quivira Coalition, Joanne Hilton, and the New Mexico Environmental Department to prepare this WBP. EPA also appreciates the thorough and timely manner in which our original comments were addressed. This plan will provide sufficient information to implement the 2010 TMDL for the Cimarron River Watershed and will effectively address other sources of nonpoint source pollution in the watershed. We are pleased to inform you that we consider this plan to be in compliance with EPA national guidance. We expect that this living document will be refined as data collection for additional stream segments continues and milestone reviews determine implementation progress and effectiveness.

Based on our acceptance of the WBP, the State of New Mexico is now eligible for CWA Section 319 funding for watershed implementation projects consistent with this WBP and the Surface Water Quality Bureau's Nonpoint Source Management Plan. If you or your staff have any questions regarding our review, please contact me at 214-665-6653, or you can contact Brian Fontenot of my staff at 214-665-7286.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane B. Watson".

Jane B. Watson, Ph.D.
Associate Director
Ecosystems Protection Branch

cc: James Hogan, NMED